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PUNCH

COMICS

NO.15
10¢

HARRY "A" CHESLER JR.
WORLD'S
Greatest
COMICS



WEB COMIC UNIVERSE.COM



Girls Can't Resist this KISS ME NECKTIE as it GLOWS in the DARK!



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BY DAY, A LOVELY SWANK
TIE... BY NIGHT, A CALL
TO LOVE IN GLOWING
WORDS!



MEN... BOYS... Now amaze your friends! Surprise and thrill every girl you meet! Be different and the life of the party in any crowd! Here's the most amazing spectacular necktie that you ever wore, a smart wrinkle-proof, tailored cravat, which at night is a thrilling sensation! It's smart, superb class by day, and just imagine in the dark—it seems like a necktie of compelling allure sheer magic! Like a miracle of light there comes a pulsing, glowing question—WILL YOU KISS ME IN THE DARK, BABY? Think of the surprise, the awe you will cause! There's no trick, no hidden batteries, no switches or foolish horseplay.

but a thing of loveliness as the question emerges gradually to life, touched by the wand of darkness, and your girl will gasp with wonder as it takes form so amazingly. It's new... utterly different... a Hollywood riot wherever you go. And here's wonderful news! You can see, examine this glorious tie yourself without risk... just mail the coupon!

SEND NO MONEY!

Examine... Let It Thrill You... ON THIS FREE TRIAL OFFER!

Don't confuse this magnificent necktie with any ordinary novelty tie, for it's high class, distinctive, ties up perfectly, and you'll wear it with pride. Its color combination is specially created and so original that you actually can wear it tastefully with any suit. It's wrinkle-proof, beautifully fashioned. You might expect to pay \$2.00 or even \$3.00 for this cravat just for daytime wear. But now, if you act quick, under this special INTRODUCTORY OFFER, you will have this marvelous, breath-taking GLOW IN THE DARK sensation for only \$1.49! That's all, just \$1.49, a bargain in quality, and a million dollars worth of fun at any party, or in any crowd, an aid to love! Send no money, here's all you do. Mail coupon with your name and address. On arrival of your GLOWING KISS ME NECKTIE, you simply pay postman \$1.49, plus postage. (If money comes with order, we pay postage.) Then examine. See how it excites and thrills. And, if you are not delighted, if you are not eager to wear it, just return it for your money back promptly. Isn't that a fair, generous offer? Then act at once. Don't wait. Mail the coupon now!



IT'S NOVEL,
DIFFERENT
BARRELS
OF FUN!



MAIL THIS NO-RISK COUPON NOW!

GLOW IN THE DARK NECKTIE CO.

215 N. Michigan Ave., Dept. 311-K. Chicago 1, Illinois

Rush me my KISS ME NECKTIE that glows in the dark. I will pay postman \$1.49 plus postage with your positive assurance I will be delighted or return tie for full refund.

If you want us to send you 3 Glowing Neckties for \$4.22, check here

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone _____ State _____

ROCKETMAN



A clever conspiracy cast disgrace upon the criminal court and a chuckling killer was loosed to prey again upon honest citizens. Evidence furnished by Rocketman had brought the killer to trial, so Cal Martin and his legal secretary knew that they would have to take all risks to even the score for justice!

A blue ribbon jury reaches its verdict in the trial of the State vs Herman "Blackie" Dahl —

YOU SURE THAT JUROR HELD OUT FOR MY ACQUITTAL, REX?

SHHHH—BLACKIE! IT'S IN THE BAG—BUT HE'LL SQUAWK IF YOU DON'T RAISE TEN GRAND BY MIDNIGHT!

Among the tense spectators are Cal Martin and Doris Dalton —

BLACKIE LOOKS TOO CONFIDENT, CAL—FOR A MAN ABOUT TO BE PRONOUNCED GUILTY OF FIRST DEGREE MURDER!

BUT THE EVIDENCE WE GAVE THE D.A. MADE AN IRONCLAD CASE. QUIET—THE JURY'S FILING BACK IN!





THE D.A.'S OFFICE?
GO AHEAD! WHAT?
BLACKIE SLUGGED
THE MAN SHADOWING
HIM! ER--SAY, IS
THE JURY UNDER
SURVEILLANCE?
THEY ARE. GOOD!

-- IT'S
GETTING
DARK
OUTSIDE,
ROCKETMAN!

And at that moment, the
dusk conceals Blackie's
movements --

THE D.A. MUST'VE
POSTED THAT GUY OUT
FRONT TO WATCH THE
TEACHER'S HOUSE. BUT
THIS TRICK WILL SAVE
ME A PILE OF DOUGH!

DAHL--!
YOU--
YOU--!!

HOWDY, MISTER
ARNOLD! NICE
EVENING--
AIN'T IT?



YOU WANTED ME TO
GET THE CHAIR, DIDN'T
YOU? BUT IT WILL LOOK
LIKE YOU HELD OUT FOR
MY ACQUITTAL -- AND
I PAID YOU OFF
IN LEAD!



Two minutes after the D.A.'s man
reports the murder --



HELLO--YES! ONE OF THE
JURORS WAS MURDERED.
ARNOLD, EH. WHO'D HAVE
SUSPECTED HIM OF
SWINGING THE JURY
FOR BLACKIE!

ARNOLD WAS
HEAVILY IN DEBT!
--A GOOD MOTIVE!
WE DON'T KNOW
WHETHER BLACKIE
DID THE JOB OR
FARMED IT OUT!



THE OTHER JURORS
WILL BE TOO
TERRIFIED TO
TALK NOW!
WHERE WE
HEADING?

TO THE LAW
OFFICE OF
BLACKIE'S
MOUTHPIECE!



But Rocketman's quarry arrives first!

BLACKIE! YOU'RE UP TO YOUR NECK AGAIN! WHY'D YOU SLUG THAT COP THEY PUT ON YOUR TRAIL?

YOU'RE GONNA HAVE A HEMORRHAGE WHEN I TELL YUH!

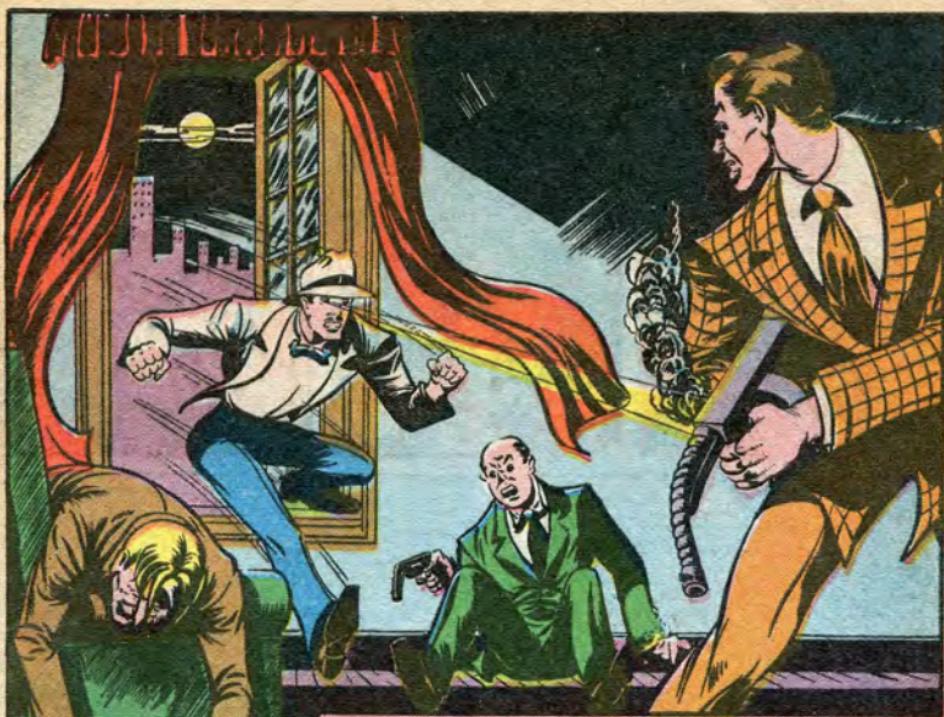
I'M GONNA TELL THAT CORPSE BEAUTICIAN I AIN'T SLIPPIN' HIM THE TEN G'S--BECAUSE ARNOLD TOOK THE RAP FOR HIM!

YOU--YOU SCREWBALL! YOU RUBBED OUT THAT TEACHER?!









MASTER KEY

Double trouble dumps a deadly frame-up onto Ray Cardell's doorstep in spite of the fact that his secret, crime fighting identity as the Master Key is still a mysterious enigma to both the police and gangdom. But with both sides of the law gunning for him, how can the Master Key's uncanny X-Ray eye melt the steel jaws of a sure-fire trap?



LOOK OUT!
SOMEONE'S
SHOOTING
AT RAY
CARDELL!

YEAH—BECAUSE
THEY THINK
I'M RUNNING
FOR THE COPE!
BUT I'M
NOT!



KEEP THE PATRONS
COVERED, GYP..
WHILE ME AND
BALDY TAKE THEIR
DONATIONS!

MAKE IT
SNAPPY,
WOLF!

THANKS, LADY!
THAT BRACELET'S
GOOD FOR
TWO GRAND!

STEP ON
IT, PAL!
WE AIN'T
GOT ALL
NIGHT!

Rushing around to the
front door, Ray Cardell
claims his hat and
waits tensely—



THE MASTER
KEY! WE'RE
TRAPPED!

DROP YOUR GUNS
AND EMPTY THE
LOOT FROM YOUR
POCKETS IF YOU
WANT TO
STAY HEALTHY!

I GOT HIM-
GUYS! GRAB
THAT STUFF
AND SCRAM!



YOUR PAL DIDN'T
EVEN WING ME!
LOOK OUT-- OR
YOUR HAND WILL
BE BURNED TO
A CRISP!

DOW!
THAT
HEAT'S
LIKE A
FURNACE!

THIS WILL COOL
YOU OFF UNTIL
THE COPS ARRIVE!

AAAH
OH--

THEY
ESCAPED!
ARE YOU
HURT--
MASTER
KEY?

ONLY MY
FEELINGS.
PHONE THE
POLICE TO
PICK UP THE
GENT I JUST
KAYOED! I'M
LEAVING NOW!



ONE OF THEM TOSSED HIS KEYS AWAY WHEN HE EMPTIED HIS POCKETS. NOT MUCH OF A CLUE IN A CITY OF A BILLION LOCKS!



WHY, YOU PIKERS! THAT ALL YOU COULD SNATCH?



YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT A TOUGH BABY THAT MASTER KEY IS, BOSS! THAT EYE BEAM OF HIS CAN MELT STEEL!

HE'S THROUGH BEING TOUGH, WOLF! I'M GONNA SETTLE MY SCORE WITH THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY TONIGHT, AND MASTER KEY'S GONNA TAKE THE RAP!



SO LONG FOR AWHILE, BOYS! MASTER KEY'S GONNA RUB OUT HIS PAL-- THE D.A.!

CLIP-- YOU'RE POSITIVELY A GENIUS!



Soon after, at a side street hotel--

YOU GUYS ACT LIKE SOMETHING WENT WRONG.
SPILL IT!

YEAH, BOSS! MASTER KEY GUMMED UP THE JOB. MUST'VE GRABBED GYP, TOO!



SEE, BOYS? A LITTLE BURNED CORK, A FEW LINES IN THE FACE, A MUSTACHE AND A HAT-- AND COULDN'T I PASS FOR THE MASTER KEY?



GEE, CLIP-- YOU LOOK SO MUCH LIKE HIM, YOU GIMME THE JITTERS!

Clip Burnham's disguise gets him by the night watchman and elevator operator at the District Attorney's office--

UH, HELLO, MASTER KEY! CAN'T YOU LEAVE ME ALONE WHEN I'M WORKING LATE?

TONIGHT'S YOUR LAST, MY FRIEND!



HEY! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU, MASTER KEY? HAVE YOU GONE MAD?

YEAH.. CRAZY, LIKE A FOX!



When Clip Burnham's footsteps fade down the corridor...

WHEN! IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE MASTER KEY IS SUCH A BAD MARKSMAN, BUT I'VE GOT THIS SWITCH TO THANK FOR SAVING MY LIFE!



HELLO.. INSPECTOR FAY! SET A TRAP-- GOOD ONE. MIND YOU-- FOR MASTER KEY. HE JUST MADE AN ATTEMPT TO MURDER ME! NO OTHER DETAILS FOR THE PRESENT.



MCMAHON! SUMMON A DOZEN PLAINCLOTHES MEN FROM THE DETECTIVE DIVISION AND BRING BACK A DOZEN FEATHER PILLOWS!



Meanwhile, Ray Cardell is making up for lost time...

YOU SEE, I WAS DETAINED BY THE POLICE AFTER THE HOLDUP, DOLORES!

I'LL TURN ON THE RADIO FOR THE LATE NEWS FLASHES!



CITIZENS ARE WARNED TO BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR A TALL HUNCHBACK WHO ESCAPED TONIGHT FROM AN ASYLUM FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE. THIS MAN KILLED TWO--

SAY, IT'S GETTING LATE! I'D BETTER RUN ALONG!



A HUNCHBACK SHOULDN'T BE HARD TO SPOT. I'LL DRIFT OVER INTO THE ALL-NIGHT LUNCH SECTION!



Four blocks up the street, Master Key spies a hunched giant staggering aimlessly.

I CAN'T BE THIS LUCKY-- BUT I AM! BUT GIVING HIM THE WORKS MAY NOT BE SO EASY!



SWITCH OFF THAT MAGIC EYE, MASTER KEY, OR I'LL SQUEEZE THE TRIGGER! TURN YOUR BACK TOWARD ME WITH YOUR HANDS UP!

HEY--WHAT KIND OF A GAG--?



In a flash, the X-ray beam ignites the police car's gas tank!



**Eluding the plainclothes men detectives,
Master Key casts his X-ray beam at
half strength on his clue to
the Cafe bandits--**

BEST WAY TO TACKLE THIS
FRAME-UP IS TO START AT THE
BEGINNING. AH! THE DIE
STAMPING WAS FILED FROM
THIS KEY, BUT MY BEAM WILL
REVEAL THE OBLITERATED NAME!

Within fifteen minutes--

THE KEY WON'T TURN A
NIGHT LATCH, SO I'LL
TUMBLE IT WITH
ELECTRO-MAGNETISM!



AH-- GOOD
EVENING--
GENTLEMEN!
I TRUST YOU
HAVEN'T
FORGOTTEN
ME!

QUICK, CLIP!
GRAB THE
CHOPPER!
MASTER
KEY IS HERE!

BOOM!
MY EYES!
THEY'RE
ON FIRE!

DON'T LET
THAT GUN
GIVE YOU
AMBITIONS,
BALDY! JUST
TAKE IT EASY.
YOU'LL LIVE
LONGER!

HEY! WHAT'D HE DO?
RUN OUT? I'LL CHOP
HIM APART IN
THE HALL!



NICE WIDE WINDOW LEDGE
OUT THERE, CLIP BURNHAM!
NOW DROP THAT MEAT
GRINDER AND COME
WITH ME!

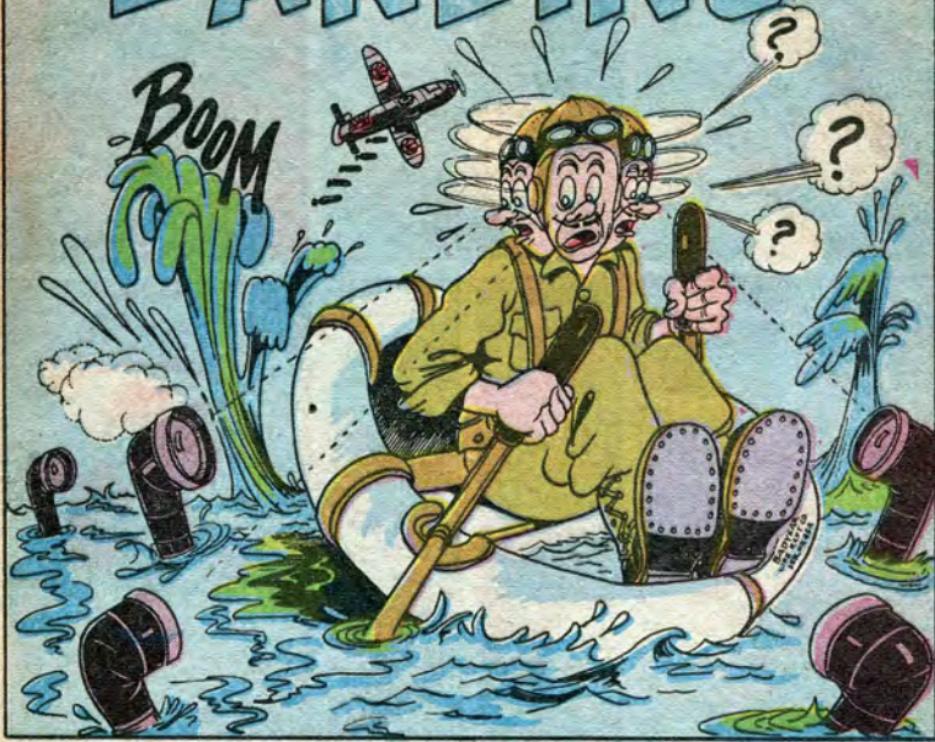
WHAAA?
OWW!
MY ARM!
STOP!

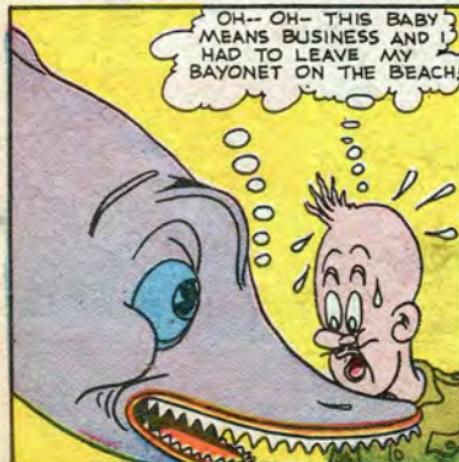
When the D.A. opens his office
the next morning--



CLIP BURNHAM DISGUISED AS
MASTER KEY! UH-HUH--AND I'LL
BET MY RIGHT ARM THAT YOU
WERE DUMPED HERE BY THE
SAME GENT WHO TIPPED THE
COPS WHERE TO PICK UP
WOLF AND BRADY!

"HAPPY" LANDING





ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES, FRANKIE. I'VE GOT A JOKE TO PLAY ON THE JAPS!

HEPCAT! YOU ARE SURE GOT NINE LIVES!



THOSE SHARKS ARE AS HARMLESS AS PX BEER. I'LL CORRAL A DOZEN OF 'EM IN THE LAGOON WHILE YOU GET AN ARMFUL OF STOVEPIPES!

YOU'RE ON THE BALL, HAPPY. I GET THE IDEAL



FRANKIE CARRIES OUT HIS DETAIL IN RECORD TIME.

NICE GOIN', KEDD, YOU COULD SWIPE GOLD FROM UNDER A MISER'S SCHNOZZLE

GRAB YOURSELF A SHARK AND LET'S GET BUSY, HAP!



WHEN THE TIDE GOES OUT, THESE CRITTERS WILL SWIM DOWN THE COAST AND GIVE THE JAPS THE JITTERS!

THINK WHAT WE COULD DO WITH A MEDIUM BOMBER, HAPPY!



AS THE SHARK SUBMARINE FLEET TURNS SEWARD WITH THE TIDE ~

NOW TO WRANGLE COLONEL KORNE'S B-25 WITH A LOAD OF BOMBS!

YEAH, WE'VE GOTTA FOLLOW THE SHARKS TO JAP-CONTROLLED WATERS. LET'S GO!



THERE'S COLONEL KORNE'S CRATE. WUZ YOU EVER ON A BOMBARDIER, FRANKIE?

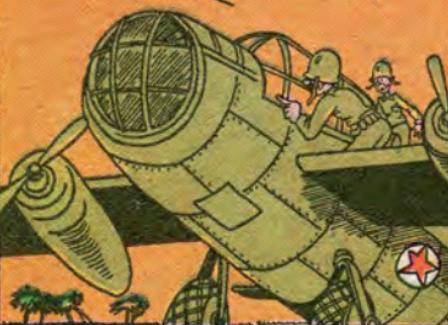
NO-- BUT I WORKED ON A CHICKEN FARM, SO I KNOW HOW TO DROP EGGS!



THE COLONEL'S CREW
LEFT THEIR SUITS
INSIDE TO BE READY
TO TAKE OFF AT A
MOMENT'S NOTICE!

IT WOULDN'T
PAY FOR US
TO GIVE
NOTICE--
EH, HAP?

MY PLANE! A COUPLE OF
CRAZY G.I.S ARE STEALING
IT! GO UP AND FORCE
THEM DOWN!!!



I SAID FORCE THEM
DOWN-- NOT ME;
YOU DOPES!

GANGWAY!
SOME NUT STOLE
THE COLONEL'S
CRATE!

I THINK WE WUZ
SPOTTED. SEE
THEM GUYS
RUNNING TOWARD
THE FIGHTER
PLANES, FRANKIE?

MESS SARGE
MUST'VE BLOWN
THE CHOW
WHISTLE.
DON'T WORRY!



HAPPY! WE'RE
LOSING
ALTITUDE!
KICK HER UP
A THOUSAND
FEET! --

LOOK! THERE'S
ONE OF
OUR
SUBMARINE
SHARKS
GOING IN
THE WRONG
DIRECTION!

THAT'LL TEACH
HIM TO RUN
AGAINST THE
TIDE!

OOOPS!
ARE YOU
SURE THAT
WUZ ONE
OF OUR
SHARKS--
HAPPY?



SEE? DOWN
AHEAD—OUR
SHARK SUBS
ARE RUNNING
ALONG TO THE
JAP-HELD COAST.
WAIT TILL THEIR
DESTROYERS
COME OUT!

NO, HAPPY-
THE JAPS
ARE
SENDING
OUT DIVE
BOMBERS!



'MERICAN PLANE!
RADIO SQUADRON—
WE ATTACK!!!



FRANKIE!
GRAB THAT
MACHINE
GUN!

NUTS! I'M
HOOKING A
CHUTE AND
YOU BRING
THE RUBBER
RAFT. LET'S
GET OUTTA
THIS RUNAWAY
COFFIN!



THE BOYS WHO WERE
TRAILING US ARE
KNOCKING THOSE
NIPS FOR THEIR LAST
LOOPS!

BOY, WHAT'S
GONNA
HAPPEN TO US
NOW, HAP?



HANG ON, FRANKIE!
HERE COMES A NAVY
FLYING BOAT TO
RESCUE US!

THEY CAN'T REACH
US BEFORE THAT
BOMB. SAY YOUR
PRAYERS, PARTNER!



IF THOSE DUMB JERKS
SURVIVE, THEY'RE MADE
OF CAST IRON. WE'LL
RUSH 'EM TO THE
BASE HOSPITAL,
ANYWAY!



-- AND YOUR BRAVE
ACTION CRACKED THE
JAPS' MORALE, PRIVATE
LANDING. -ER, WERE
YOU BADLY WOUNDED?

WHO-ME,
COLONEL?—
NAW, I JUST
GOT A BLISTER
ON MY FOOT
FROM KICKING
ABOUT THE
CHOW!



WINNER'S STAKE

THE KID LOST HIS BETS BUT WON IN THE END

The employment manager said: "Name?"

"Percy Perkins." The youngster's voice was pitched rather high. He added, "I would like a tough job." The employment manager squinted at him through half shut eyes.

"What's your draft status?"

"I'm 4F," replied Percy.

"I need a time clerk," the employment manager suggested. "Think you can handle that?"

"I could, but I won't," the youngster retorted. "I said I want a tough job. All my friends are out fighting a war. A couple have been killed even. Several are wounded. And you think I'm going to take a job here clerking? I said I want a job that's tough, real tough. So I'll ache all over."

"You'll have to have a physical," said the employment manager. "But if you pass it, you'll get a job that you'll wish you didn't have. I give you one day and lay you odds that you won't come back."

"I haven't any money, but if you'll trust me, I'll take it, and at even money."

At seven the following morning, he was at the plant's furnace. Mike Sweeney, the stoker boss, looked down at him and blinked.

"Whaddya want, kid?" he asked. Percy didn't bat an eye.

"What do you want?" he asked.

"I was told to come here and help you."

Mike stood back a step and viewed Percy with alarm. "Don't tell me!" he exclaimed. "What's your name?"

"Percy Perkins," Percy said. "What do I do? I'd like to get to work."

"You're kinda fresh," Mike said. "For a guy with a moniker like that. Suppose I give you a clout in the face!"

"I'll bat you with the shovel if you do. But anyway, you'd hold up production that way and I want to get going."

Mike grinned. He couldn't help it. "Grab that barrow there and start hauling coal over here. Lots of it. I'll give you five to one you'll hand in your time card before noon."

"Even money," said Percy. "I already got a bet with the employment manager. I haven't got anything to put up, though. You'll have to take it on the cuff."

Percy put everything behind his straining muscles. The barrow followed the usual pattern, starting with a fast roll at the foot of the ramp it began to lose momentum toward the middle, wobbled to a near stop and then by some sheer power of more spirit than muscle behind it, began to climb again and reached

the platform at Mike's feet, where each time it seemed to dump over by itself.

Mike laughed each time to himself—each time the barrow halted, each time it dumped. And when the noon whistle blew, Mike pulled a five from his pocket.

"Well, kid, you won," he said. "I'll make it ten to five you don't last the afternoon."

Percy drew a long breath. "Even money," he puffed. "Between you and the employment manager I'm gonna make a war bond by night."

Mike was scowling as he dug into the bioluminescent pile before him. The thought of losing a ten to a little squirt with the name of Percy preyed on his mind. He began to heave double loads into the furnace and the steam gauge crept upward.

"Come on, kid," he growled.

Percy gritted his teeth and began to take the loads on the run. By two o'clock no one could recognize him. His face was black. His overalls were black. His body, bare to the waist, was coated with sweat-streaked coal dust.

Mike glanced at the gauge again and frowned. Then for a moment he had a look of grim satisfaction as he saw Percy hesitate at the foot of the ramp with terror in his eyes. Suddenly Mike realized the reason when he heard a sharp whistle. Steam! A boiler break! He looked horrified at the kid in the pit.

A deathly scream of wrenching metal as the boiler side gave way, the whistle breaking into a roar of boiling water and bursting steam. A flying piece of the boiler cracked Mike's skull.

Percy stood grimly in the path of the boiling flood and took the weight of Mike's falling body. Somehow he seemed to have figured out the use of directional force. For Mike's fall against Percy, sent the youngster sprawling onto the ramp away from the boiling torrent.

It was two weeks before Percy returned to the plant. He went to the employment manager and handed him a five and a ten.

"The ten is for Mike," he said.

"Well, thanks," said the employment manager, surprised.

"Thank you," said Percy.

The employment manager grinned. "Had enough, did you?"

"Yeah," Percy answered. "Enough to convince the draft board they were nuts. I'm putting the khaki on tomorrow."

JOHNNY ON THE SPOT



Is Johnny Jenkins jinxed? Must be! For whenever things go wrong, Johnny's right there with his fingers in the pie and the raspberries flying at him from all sides. Little wonder is it, that the kids all call him **Johnny on the Spot**! This time, the spotlight of trouble focuses a halo of harrowing menace on our young man of the hour and Johnny sees the way to escape!

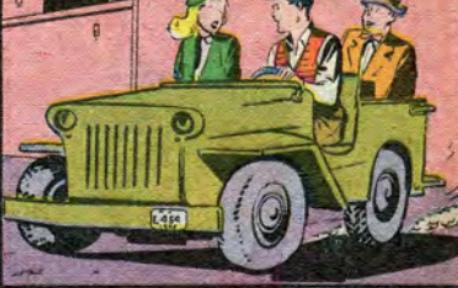


GOOD LUCK, GANG!
JOHNNY'S GONNA
TAKE FIRST
PRIZE, I HOPE!

YOU DON'T HAFTA
WORRY ABOUT HIM
COPPIN' THE BOOBY
POP! I'M GONNA BE
AT THE BOTTOM OF
THE HONORABLE
MENTIONS.

HEY, COME ON!
PUT SOME POWDER
IN THIS ROCKET
AND LET'S ZOOM!

HOLD YOUR HORSEPOWER,
GLORIA! SAVE YOUR
STRENGTH FOR THE
BIG EVENT!



YOU STILL THINK I'M GONNA LEAD A CHEERING SECTION WHEN YOU'RE BEFORE THE MIKE? THEY'LL THROW ME OUT--AND NOT ON MY EAR, EITHER!

SOMEBODY'S GOT TO TOUCH OFF THE APPLAUSE. BIRCHIE CAN'T. SHELL BE OUT IN THE BOX OFFICE.

IT SORT OF GIVES ME THE CREEPS TO COME BACK TO YE OLDE INSTITUTE AT NIGHT, CHILLUNS!

CHIN UP-- ROGER! NO ONE'S GONNA HAND YOU HOMEWORK! THE LEAST YOU CAN EXPECT IS A BUSHEL OF RASPBERRIES!

NOW FOR GOSH SAKES DON'T TRIP ON THE STAGE LIKE YOU DID IN THE SENIOR PLAY, JOHNNY!

AW, WILL YOU FORGET THAT? DON'T CHANGE ANYTHING LARGER THAN A TEN DOLLAR BILL. I'LL DO ALL RIGHT!



OOOPS!
OH, PARDON ME,
MRS. RIPPINGER!

OH-OH! WHY--
YOU CARELESS
LITTLE BRAT!

HONEST-- I
COULDN'T HELP
IT! I MUST'VE
TRIPPED!

MY EVENING GOWN
IS RUINED! YOU'LL
HEAR FROM THIS,
YOUNG MAN!



GOOD GRIEF!
THIS IS THE
PAYOFF!—
MR. GALLIGHER,
THE PRINCIPAL!

OWWWWW!

HEY JOHNNY!
WHAT WAS THAT
CRASH BACK
THERE?

MY HOPES, BOB!
I HAVEN'T A
PRAYER TO WIN
AFTER WHAT JUST
HAPPENED!
GANGWAY!

HEY, ROGER! YOU
BETTER HOP DOWN
TO THE BASEMENT
AND GIVE AID AND
COMFORT TO ONE
OF THE CONTESTANTS!

JOHNNY'S IN
TROUBLE AGAIN!
IT NEVER FAILS!

WHAT'S EATING
YOU, JOHNNY?
DISH OUT THE
LOWDOWN ON
LIFE'S BIG
PROBLEM!

AW, NUTHIN'— ONLY I
CRASHED INTO MRS. RIPPINGER
WHO'S ONE OF THE JUDGES
AND MR. GALLIGHER DID A
NOSE DIVE. I'M POISON!
KEEP AWAY FROM
ME, ROGER!

YEAH— AT LEAST
IF YOU STAY **HERE**,
YOU'LL KEEP
OUTTA TROUBLE.
I'LL GIVE YOU A
BZZZ WHEN IT'S
YOUR TURN AT
THE **MIKE**!

WHY DOES
EVERYTHING
ALWAYS
HAPPEN TO
ME? OH, WILL
BIRCHIE BURN
UP WHEN
SHE HEARS
ABOUT IT!

But at this moment,
trouble is about to
befall Johnny's beloved!

GUESS WE'RE
A LITTLE
LATE, HUH,
SIS?

YES, SIR!
YOU'RE GETTING
THE LAST TWO
TICKETS! CLYDE
HARPER'S ORCHESTRA
NEVER PLAYS TO
EMPTY SEATS, SIR!

GOOD EVENING, EVER'BODY!
I SEE WE'VE GOT A FULL
HOUSE. AND NO WONDER!
CLYDE HARPER'S BAND
HAS BEEN WOOING SWING
FANS FROM COAST TO
COAST! TAKE IT, CLYDE!





HEY--WHAT TH--? WHO'S THAT? TWO GUYS DRAGGING BIRCHIE INTO A CAR! SHE MUST'VE HEARD ABOUT ME--A AND FAINTED!

OH--NO, SHE DIDN'T FAINT. THOSE GENTS COPPED THE COIN BOX AN' ARE TAKING HER FOR A HOSTAGE!

HELP! POLICE! STOP THESE UNPREDICTABLE!

CRIES! NOBODY IN SIGHT--AN' HOW'M I GONA STOP 'EM BEFORE THEY HIT THE TURNPIKE?

WHAT'S OUR PROFIT, MOON?

HEAVENS! THAT'S JOHNNY AND HIS JEEP! HE CAN'T STOP THESE MEN UNLESS HE PICKS UP A COP!

IT LOOKS LIKE HALF A GRAND! ALL GOOD HONEST DOUGH, TOO.

WE WANT OUR MONEY BACK!

NOW HOLD BACK, FOLKS! THE YOUNG LADY AIN'T AROUND NOW! SHE TOOK A WALK WITH THE MONEY!

IF YUH KNOW WHAT'S GOOD FOR YOU, KID, YUH WON'T DESCRIBE US TO THE COPS!

TOSS OUT THAT EMPTY CASH BOX, TOO, MOON. WE CAN SHAKE THE GUY IN THE JEEP AND HEAD BACK FOR LOUIE'S!

STEP ON IT, JOHNNY! THESE CROOKS TOOK THE BOX OFFICE MONEY!

HOP IN, HONEY! WITH THE HEADLIGHTS OUT, THEY WON'T KNOW WE'RE TAILING 'EM!



THERE THEY GO--
INTO A POOL PARLOR.
I'M GOING AFTER 'EM!
YOU STAY HERE!

NO-NO, JOHNNY!
THEY'LL
KILL YOU!

IT'S A BREAK FOR
US THAT LOUIE
CLOSED UP ALREADY!
NO ONE WILL LOOK
FOR US IN HERE!

YEAH-BUT LOUIE
WOULD BUST MY FACE
IF HE KNEW I HAD
A DUPLICATE MADE
FROM HIS KEY!



In less than five minutes--

HEY KIDS? WHAT
COOKS IN
LOUIE'S
JOINT?

A COUPLE OF
CUSTOMERS FOR
COUNTY CLINK!
WE'RE MAKING A
RUN BACK TO
THE LITTLE RED
SCHOOLHOUSE!

ENJOY YOUR BLUES
EVERYBODY! WE
RECOVERED THE
CASH AND CAUGHT
THE CULPRITS!
WHO WON THE
CROONER
CONTEST?

JOHNNY
WASN'T
HERE, SO
I DID--
DARN IT--
WITHOUT
CAUSING ONE
SOUL TO
SWOON!

THAT'S
OKEDOE,
OLE BLOKE!
WHEN I'M ON
A SPOT,
THINGS LIKE
THAT WILL
HAPPEN!



MURDER MIX-UP

POISON WORKED BETTER THAN VOODOO

Randall Stevens came out of the skirting woods in the Alabama Red Hills and walked slowly in the deep twilight of the evening toward the rustic cabin of his uncle, Sam Welter. He hesitated as he thought he saw the figure of a youth upright and flat against the wall of the building. He watched carefully. The figure moved in the shadows and stopped when he had reached the center of the cabin wall.

He said to himself: "It's the Cajan boy, Ben Weaver."

He saw something in the youth's hand. It looked like a white cloth sack and he saw the boy kneel down and bury it in the earth beneath the cabin's wall. Stevens pursed his lips and his hand stole gingerly to the small paper packet in his pocket. The Cajan boy turned and lost himself quietly in the gathering shadows. Stevens narrowed his eyes in a cold steely glare ahead and plowed through the knee-high grass, making tracks toward the cabin door.

Inside, he found Sam Welter reading by the flickering light of an oil lamp. Welter set down his book as Stevens entered.

"Hello, Uncle Sam," said Stevens. "Have you made supper?"

The older man shifted his bulk. "Waiting for you," he said.

"Stay there," said Stevens. "I'll pour a couple of shots before supper." He went to the cupboard and took out two jiggers and a bottle of Scotch whiskey, half full.

Stevens watched his uncle down his drink and stood coldly and impersonally watching his convulsed breathing, his gasping, the avid fear in his face.

"You devil—poison!"

"We made a deal, Uncle. Remember?" Stevens's hard eyes never flecked. "I was to buy the ridge from Lyle Sellers, which I did. You were to turn it over to Great Southern Railway for a branch line. Which you said you couldn't do."

Welter grasped his throat and opened his mouth, but no words came forth. Stevens stood, holding his untouched liquor in his hand.

"I found out in town you did make a deal. I saw Ben Weaver burying the dough outside the cabin. So it puts me nicely in the clear. The Cajan murders you and steals your money. The sheriff and I will even watch the youngerster come back to get it."

Stevens walked out into the woods and

when he returned he was surprised to find Ben Weaver, the Cajan youngster, walking around the cabin with Mike Shade, the deputy from the sheriff's office. He went to meet them.

"Better get ready for a shock, Stevens," Shade said. He led the way inside and turned up the lamp that was still burning beside the bunk. Its rays fell on the pain-twisted face of the dead Sam Welter.

"Ben says he done it," Shade explained. "I just come up from town with him."

"But why?" Stevens blurted.

"Go on and tell, Ben," Shade ordered.

"I had a right fine hound that I use fer 'coon huntin'," Weaver explained. "Mister Welter jest borrowed that dog an' nohow he won't get it back to me."

"The hound got away," said Stevens suavely. "But I think I know the real reason for the murder. He heard Uncle Sam had collected some money from the Great Southern. Bet if you look around you won't find it here!"

"I'll vouch it wasn't that," said Shane. And he eyed Randall Stevens quizzically. "But how did you know about the deal?" he asked at last.

"I was Uncle Sam Welter's partner. Shouldn't I know?"

Shane didn't answer, but as Stevens edged slowly across the room toward the fireplace, Shane followed him. When Stevens drew his hand from his pocket, Shane grabbed it.

Stevens yanked his hand back, but Shane had the small paper packet.

Stevens reached below his coat, but Shane sent a right straight to the jaw that sent Stevens down in a heap. Stevens rose, but Shane held his gun level then.

"You're barking in the dark," Stevens snarled.

"Oh, no," said Shane. "The sheriff himself has that money. Your uncle left it with him, was gonna surprise you with the gift of it to get you started in business. But you were too smart to let him. And this paper with grains of strychnine in it will hang you after the medical men get through."

Ben Weaver gulped. "You-all mean to say it wasn't me who killed Ole Sam Welter?" he shrieked angrily. "You-all kin think so if you want, but you can't tell me I didn't hex him when I buried that sack of charred bones under the house sill beneath the head of his bed!"

PUNCH and CUTIEY

OKAY, YOUSE BUMS!
PUNCH WON HANDS
DOWN, BUT IF YUH
WANNA MAKE
SOMETHIN' OF IT,
I'LL TAKE YOUSE
ON ONE
ATTATIME!

BY A WINNAH-
PUNCH
OMALLEY!



OH! THIS IS
WONDERFUL
AND AWFUL AT
THE SAME TIME!
BUT IF I CAN'T
FIND PUNCH
BEFORE MIDNIGHT,
I SWEAR I'M
GONNA QUIT AS
HIS MANAGER!

GEE CUTIEY!
PUNCH IS MY
FAVORITE
FIGHTER!
AIN'T THERE
ANYWAY
I KIN
HELP?

YOU'RE ON,
NICKY! PAGE MY
BROTHER IN
EVERY POOL ROOM,
BARBERSHOP AND
NIGHT CLUB IN
TOWN! FIFTY
SMACKEROOS IF
YOU DRAG HIM TO
JAKE MICHAEL'S
JOINT
BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!

HALF A
C NOTE?
SHAKE,
CUTIEY! I'LL
DIG HIM UP!

I'M GOIN' IN FOR A
BIT OF SPADE WORK
MYSELF! PUNCH NEEDS
SOME FOLDING MONEY,
AND JAKE HAS GOT TO
SIGN HIM BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!

UNAWARE OF THE SEARCHING PARTY, PUNCH PREPARES HIMSELF FOR THE STERN HARDSHIPS OF NIGHT LIFE!

NOW A LEEDLE TONIC, MISTER O'MALLEY?

OKAY, TONY. BUT, MAKE SURE IT'S THE **RIGHT FLAVOR!**



WHEW! DEM VIOLETS SHO' WUZ RIPE BEFO' DEY FLAVORED UP DAT HAIR OIL!



CHEERIO CHUMS! I SHALL NOW SET FORTH TO CHERCHEZ LA FEMME IF THE OTHER WOLVES HAVEN'T GRABBED THE BEST PICKINGS ALREADY!

G'WAY!
I'M-A
DA BOSS!

MINE!



HEY, PUNCH!
CUTEY WAS HERE
LOOKIN' FOR YOU!
SHE SEZ YOU GOTTA
BE HOME BEFORE
MIDNIGHT!

YEAH? WELL,
LISTEN, MAXIE!
I AIN'T IN
TRAININ' SO I
KIN STAY OUT
AS LATE AS
I WANT,
SEE?



OH-OH! HERE'S MY CHANCE TO DITCH THIS TWO-TON SALAMI AND GET MY NAME IN THE MORNING PAPERS!



KNOW WHAT PUNCH O'MALLEY SAID ABOUT YOU, HONEY? HE CALLED YOU **GROUNDED BARRAGE BALLOON!**

HE DID, HUH?
MAYBE MY FIGHTERS CAN'T LICK 'EM - BUT WATCH HOW I HANDLE THAT SLAP-HAPPY SAP!



BROILED LOBSTER AND PLENTY OF FRENCH FRIES, DOC! AND WHAT DO YOU WISH FOR AN APPETIZER, SIR?

I'LL SUPPLY THAT, WAITER! A NICE JUICY SMACK IN THE SNOOT!





AND JUST WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU SUPPOSED TO BE DOING, MISTER O'MALLEY?

WHY, UH, THAT IS-- ER, I HAD A LITTLE ACCIDENT!



HEY! WHAT'S THE BIG IDEA? WHERE YUH TAKIN' ME?

I OUGHTA TAKE YUH TO A PSYCHIATRIST TO HAVE YOUR HEAD EXAMINED, BUT THERE AINT TIME!



AN HOUR LATER, PUNCH MEETS AN OLD FRIEND AT THE FIGHT PROMOTER'S OFFICE

NOW, COME ON BOYS! LET BYGONES BE BYGONES AND SIGN THIS CONTRACT FOR A TEN-ROUND BOUT!

NIX, JAKE! PUNCH AIN'T IN A CLASS WITH MY MAN! SUGAR KANE WILL PIN HIS EARS TO THE CANVAS IN THE FIRST ROUND!

YEAH? I DON'T NEED A CRADLE TO ROCK SUGAR TO SLEEP!

GO AHEAD, PUNCH! SIGN AND YOU'LL MAKE BEEFSTEAK LOOK LIKE A PIKER!

OKAY-- SLICK CHICK! I'LL SIGN YOUR BRUDDER'S DEATH WARRANT, BUT YOU ASKED FOR IT, REMEMBER!

NEXT EVENING, PUNCH STARTS A RIGOROUS TRAINING SCHEDULE WITH KNIFE AND FORK!

PUNCHIE DARLING! DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN BEAT SUGAR KANE?

IT'S IN THE BAG, BABY! PUT YOUR BANKROLL ON ME AND YOU'LL BE IN THE CHIPS!



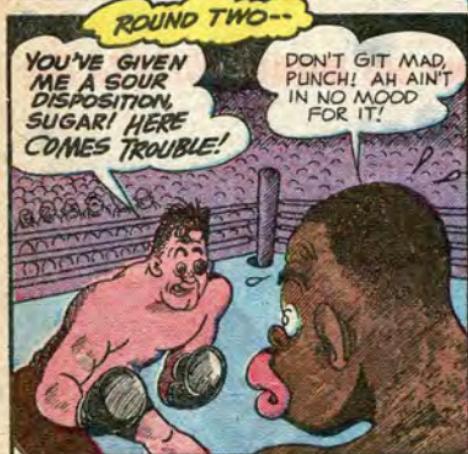
YEAH, MIKE. PUNCH WON'T KNOW ME WITH MY BACK TURNED. WHEN THAT DOLL GOES TO THE POWDER ROOM, GIVE HIM A WINK AND NOD TOWARD ME! I'LL DO THE REST!

GEE, I DIN'T RECOGNIZE YUH ALL DOLLED UP, CUTIE! HEY-- WHAT'S THE-- BRASS KNUCKLES?



WOO-- WOO! THAT'S A NIFTY LITTLE NUMBER SITTING AT THE SCOTCH AND SODA FOUNTAIN! I'D BETTER INVESTIGATE!





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ENERGY

WHEN YOU NEED IT!



Jeep or boat? The U.S. Amphibian Jeep is both! This versatile little vehicle, called a "duck," traverses land and water with equal efficiency... ready with energy wherever needed!

Baby Ruth

HELPS REPLENISH NEEDED ENERGY



Uummm... Baby Ruth Cookies are delicious... easy-to-make!

RECIPE ON EVERY WRAPPER

If you cannot find Baby Ruth on the candy counter, remember Uncle Sam's needs come first with us as with you.

When our body motor runs low and fatigue sets in, Baby Ruth Candy is ideal "perk-up" fuel... its food-energy helps to carry a job through to the finish! Baby Ruth has followed through from civilian life to Front Lines. To our fighters everywhere, Baby Ruth is bringing dextrose-rich nourishment... refreshing goodness... good cheer. Remember this, please, if you must ask again tomorrow for the Baby Ruth you would have enjoyed today!

CURTISS CANDY COMPANY • Producers of Fine Foods • CHICAGO 13, ILLINOIS



★ ★ ★ BUY U. S. WAR BONDS AND STAMPS ★ ★ ★